

the FDA-approved labeling and national guidelines", to express deep concerns about such final National Coverage Determination, and to urge that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services reconsider such restriction;

Whereas such restriction could increase blood transfusions and severely compromise the high quality of cancer care delivered by physicians in United States; and

Whereas the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has noted that the agency did not address the impact on the blood supply in such final National Coverage Determination and has specifically stated, "[t]he concern about the adequacy of the nation's blood supply is not a relevant factor for consideration in this national coverage determination": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services should begin an immediate reconsideration of the final National Coverage Determination on the Use of Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents in Cancer and Related Neoplastic Conditions (CAG-000383N);

(2) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services should consult with members of the clinical oncology community to determine appropriate revisions to such final National Coverage Determination; and

(3) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services should implement appropriate revisions to such final National Coverage Determination as soon as feasible and provide a briefing to Congress in advance of announcing such changes.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to introduce a sense of the Senate regarding a recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, national coverage determination on the treatment of anemia in Medicare cancer patients.

On June 29, 2007, I wrote to Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt concerning the proposed CMS coverage determination that limits access to erythropoiesis-simulating agents which increases the red blood cell counts of chemotherapy patients who have become anemic. Further, 51 other Senators sent similar letters to Department of Health and Human Services officials.

On July 30, 2007, CMS issued the final coverage determination, and while some of the proposed restrictions were substantially altered in favor of patients, I remain concerned about the impact that this decision will have on Medicare beneficiary access to needed therapies. The new policy requires that patients have lower red blood cell counts before being able to receive treatment with an erythropoiesis-simulating agent, resulting in patients that are unnecessarily weaker and may not be able to maintain their chemotherapy treatment regimens without having to turn to costly and time-consuming blood transfusions.

This restriction is inconsistent with both the FDA-approved label and prescribing instructions and is also contrary to national professional society oncology guidelines. For instance, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the national organization representing physicians who treat patients with cancer, has written to CMS to express deep concerns about the coverage determination, urging CMS to reconsider these restrictions.

I encourage my colleagues to support this sense of the Senate that I introduce with Senators HARKIN and LAUTENBERG to have CMS reconsider the final national coverage determination on the use of erythropoiesis-simulating agents.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 43—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE, AND A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 43

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, August 3, 2007, through Friday, August 31, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12 noon on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, August 3, 2007, through Wednesday, August 8, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2649. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BOND) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1927, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to provide additional procedures for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence information and for other purposes.

SA 2650. Mr. REID (for Mr. KERRY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 163, to improve the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

SA 2651. Mr. REID (for Mr. BOND) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2650 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. KERRY) to the bill S. 163, *supra*.

SA 2652. Mr. REID (for Mr. COBURN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2650 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. KERRY) to the bill S. 163, *supra*.

SA 2653. Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. REED)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2358, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins in commemoration of Native Americans and the important contributions made by Indian tribes and individual Native Americans to the development of the United States and the history of the United States, and for other purposes.

SA 2654. Mr. COLEMAN (for Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3311, to authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007, to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, and for other purposes.

SA 2655. Mr. REID (for Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. LEAHY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 849, to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2649. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BOND) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1927, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to provide additional procedures for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence information and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

(c) SUNSET.—Except as provided in subsection (d), sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall cease to have effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) AUTHORIZATIONS IN EFFECT.—Authorizations for the acquisition of foreign intelligence information pursuant to the amendments made by this Act, and directives issued pursuant to such authorizations, shall remain in effect until their expiration. Such acquisitions shall be governed by the applicable provisions of such amendments and shall not be deemed to constitute electronic surveillance as that term is defined in section 101(f) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801(f)).

SA 2650. Mr. REID (for Mr. KERRY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 163, to improve the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2007".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Extension of program authority.

TITLE I—DISASTER PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Sec. 101. Disaster loans to nonprofits.

Sec. 102. Disaster loan amounts.

Sec. 103. Small business development center portability grants.

Sec. 104. Assistance to out-of-State businesses.

Sec. 105. Outreach programs.

Sec. 106. Small business bonding threshold.

Sec. 107. Termination of program.

Sec. 108. Increasing collateral requirements.

Sec. 109. Public awareness of disaster declaration and application periods.

Sec. 110. Consistency between Administration regulations and standard operating procedures.

Sec. 111. Processing disaster loans.

Sec. 112. Development and implementation of major disaster response plan.

Sec. 113. Disaster planning responsibilities.
 Sec. 114. Additional authority for district offices of the Administration.
 Sec. 115. Assignment of employees of the Office of Disaster Assistance and Disaster Cadre.

Sec. 116. Report regarding lack of snow fall.

TITLE II—DISASTER LENDING

Sec. 201. Catastrophic national disaster declaration.

Sec. 202. Private disaster loans.

Sec. 203. Technical and conforming amendments.

Sec. 204. Expedited disaster assistance loan program.

Sec. 205. HUBZones.

TITLE III—DISASTER ASSISTANCE OVERSIGHT

Sec. 301. Congressional oversight.

TITLE IV—ENERGY EMERGENCIES

Sec. 401. Findings.

Sec. 402. Small business energy emergency disaster loan program.

Sec. 403. Agricultural producer emergency loans.

Sec. 404. Guidelines and rulemaking.

Sec. 405. Reports.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(2) the term “catastrophic national disaster” means a catastrophic national disaster declared under section 7(b)(11) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), as added by this Act;

(3) the term “declared disaster” means a major disaster or a catastrophic national disaster;

(4) the term “disaster area” means an area affected by a natural or other disaster, as determined for purposes of paragraph (1) or (2) of section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), during the period of such declaration;

(5) the term “disaster loan program of the Administration” means assistance under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b));

(6) the term “disaster update period” means the period beginning on the date on which the President declares a major disaster or a catastrophic national disaster and ending on the date on which such declaration terminates;

(7) the term “major disaster” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122);

(8) the term “small business concern” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and

(9) the term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and any territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PROGRAM AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), is amended by striking “July 31, 2007” each place it appears and inserting “October 31, 2007”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on July 31, 2007.

TITLE I—DISASTER PLANNING AND RESPONSE

SEC. 101. DISASTER LOANS TO NONPROFITS.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) LOANS TO NONPROFITS.—In addition to any other loan authorized by this subsection, the Administrator may make such loans (either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis) as the Administrator determines appropriate to a nonprofit organization located or operating in an area affected by a natural or other disaster, as determined under paragraph (1) or (2), or providing services to persons who have evacuated from any such area.”.

SEC. 102. DISASTER LOAN AMOUNTS.

(a) INCREASED LOAN CAPS.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (4), as added by this title, the following:

“(5) INCREASED LOAN CAPS.—

“(A) AGGREGATE LOAN AMOUNTS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the aggregate loan amount outstanding and committed to a borrower under this subsection may not exceed \$2,000,000.

“(B) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may, at the discretion of the Administrator, increase the aggregate loan amount under subparagraph (A) for loans relating to a disaster to a level established by the Administrator, based on appropriate economic indicators for the region in which that disaster occurred.”.

(b) DISASTER MITIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “of the aggregate costs of such damage or destruction (whether or not compensated for by insurance or otherwise)” after “20 per centum”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to a loan or guarantee made after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the, Administration” and inserting “the Administration”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act” and inserting “Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) (in this subsection referred to as a ‘major disaster’)”; and

(3) in the undersigned matter at the end—

(A) by striking “, (2), and (4)” and inserting “and (2)”; and

(B) by striking “, (2), or (4)” and inserting “(2)”.

SEC. 103. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PORTABILITY GRANTS.

Section 21(a)(4)(C)(viii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(viii)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “as a result of a business or government facility downsizing or closing, which has resulted in the loss of jobs or small business instability” and inserting “due to events that have resulted or will result in, business or government facility downsizing or closing”; and

(2) by adding at the end “At the discretion of the Administrator, the Administrator may make an award greater than \$100,000 to a recipient to accommodate extraordinary occurrences having a catastrophic impact on the small business concerns in a community.”.

SEC. 104. ASSISTANCE TO OUT-OF-STATE BUSINESSES.

Section 21(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “At the discretion” and inserting the following: “SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion”; and (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) DURING DISASTERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Administrator, the Administrator may authorize a small business development center to provide such assistance to small business concerns located outside of the State, without regard to geographic proximity, if the small business concerns are located in a disaster area declared under section 7(b)(2)(A).

“(ii) CONTINUITY OF SERVICES.—A small business development center that provides counselors to an area described in clause (i) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure continuity of services in any State in which such small business development center otherwise provides services.

“(iii) ACCESS TO DISASTER RECOVERY FACILITIES.—For purposes of providing disaster recovery assistance under this subparagraph, the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, permit small business development center personnel to use any site or facility designated by the Administrator for use to provide disaster recovery assistance.”.

SEC. 105. OUTREACH PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the declaration of a disaster area, the Administrator may establish a contracting outreach and technical assistance program for small business concerns which have had a primary place of business in, or other significant presence in, such disaster area.

(b) ADMINISTRATOR ACTION.—The Administrator may carry out subsection (a) by acting through—

(1) the Administration;

(2) the Federal agency small business officials designated under section 15(k)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)(1)); or

(3) any Federal, State, or local government entity, higher education institution, procurement technical assistance center, or private nonprofit organization that the Administrator may determine appropriate, upon conclusion of a memorandum of understanding or assistance agreement, as appropriate, with the Administrator.

SEC. 106. SMALL BUSINESS BONDING THRESHOLD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any procurement related to a major disaster, the Administrator may, upon such terms and conditions as the Administrator may prescribe, guarantee and enter into commitments to guarantee any surety against loss resulting from a breach of the terms of a bid bond, payment bond, performance bond, or bonds ancillary thereto, by a principal on any total work order or contract amount at the time of bond execution that does not exceed \$5,000,000.

(b) INCREASE OF AMOUNT.—Upon request of the head of any Federal agency other than the Administration involved in reconstruction efforts in response to a major disaster, the Administrator may guarantee and enter into a commitment to guarantee any security against loss under subsection (a) on any total work order or contract amount at the time of bond execution that does not exceed \$10,000,000.

SEC. 107. TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.

Section 711(c) of the Small Business Competitive Demonstration Program Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 644 note) is amended by inserting after “January 1, 1989” the following: “, and shall terminate on the date of enactment of the Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2007”.

SEC. 108. INCREASING COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 7(c)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(c)(6)) is amended by striking

“\$10,000 or less” and inserting “\$14,000 or less (or such higher amount as the Administrator determines appropriate in the event of a catastrophic national disaster declared under subsection (b)(11))”.

SEC. 109. PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DISASTER DECLARATION AND APPLICATION PERIODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (5), as added by this Act, the following:

“(6) COORDINATION WITH FEMA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any disaster (including a catastrophic national disaster) declared under this subsection or major disaster, the Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that all application periods for disaster relief under this Act correspond with application deadlines established under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), or as extended by the President.

“(B) DEADLINES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 10 days before the closing date of an application period for a major disaster (including a catastrophic national disaster), the Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(i) the deadline for submitting applications for assistance under this Act relating to that major disaster;

“(ii) information regarding the number of loan applications and disbursements processed by the Administrator relating to that major disaster for each day during the period beginning on the date on which that major disaster was declared and ending on the date of that report; and

“(iii) an estimate of the number of potential applicants that have not submitted an application relating to that major disaster.

“(7) PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DISASTERS.—If a disaster (including a catastrophic national disaster) is declared under this subsection, the Administrator shall make every effort to communicate through radio, television, print, and web-based outlets, all relevant information needed by disaster loan applicants, including—

“(A) the date of such declaration;

“(B) cities and towns within the area of such declaration;

“(C) loan application deadlines related to such disaster;

“(D) all relevant contact information for victim services available through the Administration (including links to small business development center websites);

“(E) links to relevant Federal and State disaster assistance websites, including links to websites providing information regarding assistance available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

“(F) information on eligibility criteria for Administration loan programs, including where such applications can be found; and

“(G) application materials that clearly state the function of the Administration as the Federal source of disaster loans for homeowners and renters.”

(b) MARKETING AND OUTREACH.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall create a marketing and outreach plan that—

(1) encourages a proactive approach to the disaster relief efforts of the Administration;

(2) makes clear the services provided by the Administration, including contact information, application information, and timelines for submitting applications, the review of applications, and the disbursement of funds;

(3) describes the different disaster loan programs of the Administration, including how they are made available and the eligibility requirements for each loan program;

(4) provides for regional marketing, focusing on disasters occurring in each region before the date of enactment of this Act, and likely scenarios for disasters in each such region; and

(5) ensures that the marketing plan is made available at small business development centers and on the website of the Administration.

SEC. 110. CONSISTENCY BETWEEN ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, promptly following the date of enactment of this Act, conduct a study of whether the standard operating procedures of the Administration for loans offered under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) are consistent with the regulations of the Administration for administering the disaster loan program.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administration shall submit to Congress a report containing all findings and recommendations of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 111. PROCESSING DISASTER LOANS.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR QUALIFIED PRIVATE CONTRACTORS TO PROCESS DISASTER LOANS.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (7), as added by this Act, the following:

“(8) AUTHORITY FOR QUALIFIED PRIVATE CONTRACTORS.—

“(A) DISASTER LOAN PROCESSING.—The Administrator may enter into an agreement with a qualified private contractor, as determined by the Administrator, to process loans under this subsection in the event of a major disaster or a catastrophic national disaster declared under paragraph (11), under which the Administrator shall pay the contractor a fee for each loan processed.

“(B) LOAN LOSS VERIFICATION SERVICES.—The Administrator may enter into an agreement with a qualified lender or loss verification professional, as determined by the Administrator, to verify losses for loans under this subsection in the event of a major disaster or a catastrophic national disaster declared under paragraph (11), under which the Administrator shall pay the lender or verification professional a fee for each loan for which such lender or verification professional verifies losses.”

(b) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO EXPEDITE LOAN PROCESSING.—The Administrator and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that all relevant and allowable tax records for loan approval are shared with loan processors in an expedited manner, upon request by the Administrator.

SEC. 112. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) by rule, amend the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season disaster response plan of the Administration (in this section referred to as the “disaster response plan”) to apply to major disasters; and

(2) submit a report to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives detailing the amendments to the disaster response plan.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a)(2) shall include—

(1) any updates or modifications made to the disaster response plan since the report regarding the disaster response plan submitted to Congress on July 14, 2006;

(2) a description of how the Administrator plans to utilize and integrate District Office personnel of the Administration in the response to a major disaster, including information on the utilization of personnel for loan processing and loan disbursement;

(3) a description of the disaster scalability model of the Administration and on what basis or function the plan is scaled;

(4) a description of how the agency-wide Disaster Oversight Council is structured, which offices comprise its membership, and whether the Associate Deputy Administrator for Entrepreneurial Development of the Administration is a member;

(5) a description of how the Administrator plans to coordinate the disaster efforts of the Administration with State and local government officials, including recommendations on how to better incorporate State initiatives or programs, such as State-administered bridge loan programs, into the disaster response of the Administration;

(6) recommendations, if any, on how the Administration can better coordinate its disaster response operations with the operations of other Federal, State, and local entities;

(7) any surge plan for the disaster loan program of the Administration in effect on or after August 29, 2005 (including surge plans for loss verification, loan processing, mailroom, customer service or call center operations, and a continuity of operations plan);

(8) the number of full-time equivalent employees and job descriptions for the planning and disaster response staff of the Administration;

(9) the in-service and preservice training procedures for disaster response staff of the Administration;

(10) information on the logistical support plans of the Administration (including equipment and staffing needs, and detailed information on how such plans will be scalable depending on the size and scope of the major disaster;

(11) a description of the findings and recommendations of the Administrator, if any, based on a review of the response of the Administration to Hurricane Katrina of 2005, Hurricane Rita of 2005, and Hurricane Wilma of 2005; and

(12) a plan for how the Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will coordinate the provision of accommodations and necessary resources for disaster assistance personnel to effectively perform their responsibilities in the aftermath of a major disaster.

(c) EXERCISES.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the submission of the report under subsection (a)(2), the Administrator shall develop and execute simulation exercises to demonstrate the effectiveness of the amended disaster response plan required under this section.

SEC. 113. DISASTER PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) ASSIGNMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISASTER PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Administrator shall specifically assign the disaster planning responsibilities described in subsection (b) to an employee of the Administration who—

(1) is not an employee of the Office of Disaster Assistance of the Administration;

(2) shall report directly to the Administrator; and

(3) has a background and expertise demonstrating significant experience in the area of disaster planning.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities described in this subsection are—

(1) creating and maintaining the comprehensive disaster response plan of the Administration;

(2) ensuring in-service and pre-service training procedures for the disaster response staff of the Administration;

(3) coordinating and directing Administration training exercises, including mock disaster responses, with other Federal agencies; and

(4) other responsibilities, as determined by the Administrator.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report containing—

(1) a description of the actions of the Administrator to assign an employee under subsection (a);

(2) information detailing the background and expertise of the employee assigned under subsection (a); and

(3) information on the status of the implementation of the responsibilities described in subsection (b).

SEC. 114. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (8), as added by this Act, the following:

“(9) USE OF DISTRICT OFFICES.—In the event of a major disaster, the Administrator may authorize a district office of the Administration to process loans under paragraph (1) or (2).”

(b) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may designate an employee in each district office of the Administration to act as a disaster loan liaison between the disaster processing center and applicants under the disaster loan program of the Administration.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each employee designated under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be responsible for coordinating and facilitating communications between applicants under the disaster loan program of the Administration and disaster loan processing staff regarding documentation and information required for completion of an application; and

(B) provide information to applicants under the disaster loan program of the Administration regarding additional services and benefits that may be available to such applicants to assist with recovery.

(3) OUTREACH.—In providing outreach to disaster victims following a declared disaster, the Administrator shall make disaster victims aware of—

(A) any relevant employee designated under paragraph (1); and

(B) how to contact that employee.

SEC. 115. ASSIGNMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER CADRE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (9), as added by this Act, the following:

“(10) DISASTER ASSISTANCE EMPLOYEES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall, where practicable, ensure that the number of full-time equivalent employees—

“(i) in the Office of the Disaster Assistance is not fewer than 800; and

“(ii) in the Disaster Cadre of the Administration is not fewer than 750.

“(B) REPORT.—In carrying out this subsection, if the number of full-time employees for either the Office of Disaster Assistance or the Disaster Cadre of the Administration is below the level described in subparagraph (A) for that office, the Administrator shall, not later than 14 days after the date on which that staffing level decreased below the level described in subparagraph (A), submit a report to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives—

“(i) detailing the staffing levels on that date; and

“(ii) if determined appropriate by the Administrator, including a request for additional funds for additional employees.”

SEC. 116. REPORT REGARDING LACK OF SNOW FALL.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall conduct a study of, and submit a report to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate that describes—

(1) the ability of the Administrator to provide loans under section 7(b)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(2)) to small business concerns that depend on high snow fall amounts, and sustain economic injury (as described under that section) due to a lack of snow fall;

(2) the criteria that the Administrator would use to determine whether to provide a loan under section 7(b)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(2)) to a small business concern that has been adversely affected by a lack of snow fall;

(3) other Federal assistance (including loans) available to small business concerns that are adversely affected by a lack of snow fall; and

(4) the history relating to providing loans under section 7(b)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(2)) to small business concerns that have been adversely affected by a lack of snow fall.

TITLE II—DISASTER LENDING

SEC. 201. CATASTROPHIC NATIONAL DISASTER DECLARATION.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (10), as added by this Act, the following:

“(11) CATASTROPHIC NATIONAL DISASTERS.—

“(A) PROMULGATION OF RULES.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall promulgate regulations establishing a threshold for a catastrophic national disaster declaration under this Act, which shall consider—

“(i) the dollar amount per capita of damage to the State, its political subdivisions, or a region;

“(ii) the number of small business concerns damaged, physically or economically, as a direct result of the event;

“(iii) the number of individuals and households displaced from their predisaster residences by the event;

“(iv) the severity of the impact on employment rates in the State, its political subdivisions, or a region;

“(v) the anticipated length and difficulty of the recovery process; and

“(vi) other factors determined relevant by the Administrator.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION.—Following a declaration of a major disaster, if a damage assessment performed by the Administrator indicates that the damage caused by the event qualify as a catastrophic national disaster under subsection (a), the Administrator may make such loans under this paragraph (either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis) as the Administrator determines appropriate to small business concerns located anywhere in the United States that are economically adversely impacted as a result of that catastrophic national disaster.

“(C) LOAN TERMS.—A loan under this paragraph shall be made on the same terms as a loan under paragraph (2).”

SEC. 202. PRIVATE DISASTER LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) PRIVATE DISASTER LOANS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘disaster area’ means a county, parish, or similar unit of general local government in which a disaster was declared under subsection (b);

“(B) the term ‘eligible small business concern’ means a business concern that is—

“(i) a small business concern, as defined in this Act; or

“(ii) a small business concern, as defined in section 103 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958; and

“(C) the term ‘qualified private lender’ means any privately-owned bank or other lending institution that the Administrator determines meets the criteria established under paragraph (9).

“(2) AUTHORIZATION.—The Administrator may guarantee timely payment of principal and interest, as scheduled on any loan issued by a qualified private lender to an eligible small business concern located in a disaster area.

“(3) USE OF LOANS.—A loan guaranteed by the Administrator under this subsection may be used for any purpose authorized under subsection (b).

“(4) ONLINE APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator may establish, directly or through an agreement with another entity, an online application process for loans guaranteed under this subsection.

“(B) OTHER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator may coordinate with the head of any other appropriate Federal agency so that any application submitted through an online application process established under this paragraph may be considered for any other Federal assistance program for disaster relief.

“(C) CONSULTATION.—In establishing an online application process under this paragraph, the Administrator shall consult with appropriate persons from the public and private sectors, including private lenders.

“(5) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—

“(A) GUARANTEE PERCENTAGE.—The Administrator may guarantee not more than 85 percent of a loan under this subsection.

“(B) LOAN AMOUNTS.—The maximum amount of a loan guaranteed under this subsection shall be \$2,000,000.

“(6) LOAN TERM.—The longest term of a loan for a loan guaranteed under this subsection shall be—

“(A) 15 years for any loan that is issued without collateral; and

“(B) 25 years for any loan that is issued with collateral.

“(7) FEES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may not collect a guarantee fee under this subsection.

“(B) ORIGINATION FEE.—The Administrator may pay a qualified private lender an origination fee for a loan guaranteed under this subsection in an amount agreed upon in advance between the qualified private lender and the Administrator.

“(8) DOCUMENTATION.—A qualified private lender may use its own loan documentation for a loan guaranteed by the Administrator, to the extent authorized by the Administrator. The ability of a lender to use its own loan documentation for a loan guaranteed under this subsection shall not be considered part of the criteria for becoming a qualified private lender under the regulations promulgated under paragraph (9).

“(9) IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2007, the Administrator shall issue final regulations establishing permanent criteria for qualified private lenders.

“(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2007, the Administrator shall submit a report on the progress of the regulations required by subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

“(10) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts necessary to carry out this subsection shall be made available from amounts appropriated to the Administration to carry out subsection (b).

“(B) AUTHORITY TO REDUCE INTEREST RATES.—Funds appropriated to the Administration to carry out this subsection, may be used by the Administrator, to the extent available, to reduce the rate of interest for any loan guaranteed under this subsection by not more than 3 percentage points.

“(11) PURCHASE OF LOANS.—The Administrator may enter into an agreement with a qualified private lender to purchase any loan issued under this subsection.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disasters declared under section 7(b)(2) of the Small Business Act (631 U.S.C. 636(b)(2)) before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 203. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 4(c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “7(c)(2)” and inserting “7(d)(2)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “7(c)(2)” and inserting “7(d)(2)”; and

(ii) by striking “7(e).”; and

(2) in section 7(b), in the undesignated matter following paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “That the provisions of paragraph (1) of subsection (c)” and inserting “That the provisions of paragraph (1) of subsection (d)”; and

(B) by striking “Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law the interest rate on the Administration’s share of any loan made under subsection (b) except as provided in subsection (c).” and inserting “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in subsection (d), the interest rate on the Administration’s share of any loan made under subsection (b).”

SEC. 204. EXPEDITED DISASTER ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “immediate disaster assistance” means assistance provided during the period beginning on the date on which a disaster declaration is made and ending on the date that an impacted small business concern is able to secure funding through insurance claims, Federal assistance programs, or other sources; and

(2) the term “program” means the expedited disaster assistance business loan program established under subsection (b).

(b) CREATION OF PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall take such administrative action as is necessary to establish and implement an expedited disaster assistance business loan program to provide small business concerns with immediate disaster assistance under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)).

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In establishing the program, the Administrator shall consult with—

(1) appropriate personnel of the Administration (including District Office personnel of the Administration);

(2) appropriate technical assistance providers (including small business development centers);

(3) appropriate lenders and credit unions;

(4) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(5) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(d) RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue rules in final form establishing and implementing the program in accordance with this section. Such rules shall apply as provided for in this section, beginning 90 days after their issuance in final form.

(2) CONTENTS.—The rules promulgated under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify whether appropriate uses of funds under the program may include—

(i) paying employees;

(ii) paying bills and other financial obligations;

(iii) making repairs;

(iv) purchasing inventory;

(v) restarting or operating a small business concern in the community in which it was conducting operations prior to the declared disaster, or to a neighboring area, county, or parish in the disaster area; or

(vi) covering additional costs until the small business concern is able to obtain funding through insurance claims, Federal assistance programs, or other sources; and

(B) set the terms and conditions of any loan made under the program, subject to paragraph (3).

(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A loan made by the Administration under this section—

(A) shall be for not more than \$150,000;

(B) shall be a short-term loan, not to exceed 180 days, except that the Administrator may extend such term as the Administrator determines necessary or appropriate on a case-by-case basis;

(C) shall have an interest rate not to exceed 1 percentage point above the prime rate of interest that a private lender may charge;

(D) shall have no prepayment penalty;

(E) may only be made to a borrower that meets the requirements for a loan under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b));

(F) may be refinanced as part of any subsequent disaster assistance provided under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act;

(G) may receive expedited loss verification and loan processing, if the applicant is—

(i) a major source of employment in the disaster area (which shall be determined in the same manner as under section 7(b)(3)(B)

of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)(B)); or

(ii) vital to recovery efforts in the region (including providing debris removal services, manufactured housing, or building materials); and

(H) shall be subject to such additional terms as the Administrator determines necessary or appropriate.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall report to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives on the progress of the Administrator in establishing the program.

(f) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 205. HUBZONES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(p) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or”;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) areas in which the President has declared a major disaster (as that term is defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) as a result of Hurricane Katrina of August 2005 or Hurricane Rita of September 2005, during the time period described in paragraph (8); or

“(G) catastrophic national disaster areas.”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following:

“(E) CATASTROPHIC NATIONAL DISASTER AREA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘catastrophic national disaster area’ means an area—

“(I) affected by a catastrophic national disaster declared under section 7(b)(11), during the time period described in clause (ii); and

“(II) for which the Administrator determines that designation as a HUBZone would substantially contribute to the reconstruction and recovery effort in that area.

“(ii) TIME PERIOD.—The time period for the purposes of clause (i)—

“(I) shall be the 2-year period beginning on the date that the applicable catastrophic national disaster was declared under section 7(b)(11); and

“(II) may, at the discretion of the Administrator, be extended to be the 3-year period beginning on the date described in subclause (I).”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) TIME PERIOD.—The time period for the purposes of paragraph (1)(F)—

“(A) shall be the 2-year period beginning on the later of the date of enactment of this paragraph and August 29, 2007; and

“(B) may, at the discretion of the Administrator, be extended to be the 3-year period beginning on the later of the date of enactment of this paragraph and August 29, 2007.”.

(b) TOLLING OF GRADUATION.—Section 7(j)(10)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(j)(10)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iii)(I) For purposes of this subparagraph, if the Administrator designates an area as a HUBZone under section 3(p)(4)(E)(i)(II), the Administrator shall not count the time period described in subclause (II) of this clause for any small business concern—

“(aa) that is participating in any program, activity, or contract under section 8(a); and

“(bb) the principal place of business of which is located in that area.

“(II) The time period for purposes of subclause (I)—

“(aa) shall be the 2-year period beginning on the date that the applicable catastrophic national disaster was declared under section 7(b)(11); and

“(bb) may, at the discretion of the Administrator, be extended to be the 3-year period beginning on the date described in item (aa).”.

(C) STUDY OF HUBZONE DISASTER AREAS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives evaluating the designation by the Administrator of catastrophic national disaster areas, as that term is defined in section 3(p)(4)(E) of the Small Business Act (as added by this Act), as HUBzones.

TITLE III—DISASTER ASSISTANCE OVERSIGHT

SEC. 301. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.

(a) MONTHLY ACCOUNTING REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than the fifth business day of each month during the applicable period for a major disaster, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and to the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the operation of the disaster loan program authorized under section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) for that major disaster during the preceding month.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the daily average lending volume, in number of loans and dollars, and the percent by which each category has increased or decreased since the previous report under paragraph (1);

(B) the weekly average lending volume, in number of loans and dollars, and the percent by which each category has increased or decreased since the previous report under paragraph (1);

(C) the amount of funding spent over the month for loans, both in appropriations and program level, and the percent by which each category has increased or decreased since the previous report under paragraph (1);

(D) the amount of funding available for loans, both in appropriations and program level, and the percent by which each category has increased or decreased since the previous report under paragraph (1), noting the source of any additional funding;

(E) an estimate of how long the available funding for such loans will last, based on the spending rate;

(F) the amount of funding spent over the month for staff, along with the number of staff, and the percent by which each category has increased or decreased since the previous report under paragraph (1);

(G) the amount of funding spent over the month for administrative costs, and the percent by which such spending has increased or decreased since the previous report under paragraph (1);

(H) the amount of funding available for salaries and expenses combined, and the percent by which such funding has increased or decreased since the previous report under paragraph (1), noting the source of any additional funding; and

(I) an estimate of how long the available funding for salaries and expenses will last, based on the spending rate.

(b) DAILY DISASTER UPDATES TO CONGRESS FOR PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED DISASTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each day during a disaster update period, excluding Federal holidays and weekends, the Administration shall provide to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the operation of the disaster loan program of the Administration for the area in which the President declared a major disaster.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of Administration staff performing loan processing, field inspection, and other duties for the declared disaster, and the allocations of such staff in the disaster field offices, disaster recovery centers, workshops, and other Administration offices nationwide;

(B) the daily number of applications received from applicants in the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(C) the daily number of applications pending application entry from applicants in the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(D) the daily number of applications withdrawn by applicants in the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(E) the daily number of applications summarily declined by the Administration from applicants in the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(F) the daily number of applications declined by the Administration from applicants in the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(G) the daily number of applications in process from applicants in the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(H) the daily number of applications approved by the Administration from applicants in the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(I) the daily dollar amount of applications approved by the Administration from applicants in the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(J) the daily amount of loans dispersed, both partially and fully, by the Administration to applicants in the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(K) the daily dollar amount of loans disbursed, both partially and fully, from the relevant area, as well as a breakdown of such figures by State;

(L) the number of applications approved, including dollar amount approved, as well as applications partially and fully disbursed, including dollar amounts, since the last report under paragraph (1); and

(M) the declaration date, physical damage closing date, economic injury closing date, and number of counties included in the declaration of a major disaster.

(c) NOTICE OF THE NEED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.—On the same date that the Administrator notifies any committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives that supplemental funding is necessary for the disaster loan program of the Administration in any fiscal year, the Administrator shall notify in writing the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives regarding the need for supplemental funds for that loan program.

(d) REPORT ON CONTRACTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the President declares a major disaster, and every 6 months thereafter until the date that is 18 months after the date on which the major disaster was declared, the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and to

the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives regarding Federal contracts awarded as a result of that major disaster.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the total number of contracts awarded as a result of that major disaster;

(B) the total number of contracts awarded to small business concerns as a result of that major disaster;

(C) the total number of contracts awarded to women and minority-owned businesses as a result of that major disaster; and

(D) the total number of contracts awarded to local businesses as a result of that major disaster.

(e) REPORT ON LOAN APPROVAL RATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives detailing how the Administration can improve the processing of applications under the disaster loan program of the Administration.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) recommendations, if any, regarding—

(i) staffing levels during a major disaster;

(ii) how to improve the process for processing, approving, and disbursing loans under the disaster loan program of the Administration, to ensure that the maximum assistance is provided to victims in a timely manner;

(iii) the viability of using alternative methods for assessing the ability of an applicant to repay a loan, including the credit score of the applicant on the day before the date on which the disaster for which the applicant is seeking assistance was declared;

(iv) methods, if any, for the Administration to expedite loss verification and loan processing of disaster loans during a major disaster for businesses affected by, and located in the area for which the President declared, the major disaster that are a major source of employment in the area or are vital to recovery efforts in the region (including providing debris removal services, manufactured housing, or building materials);

(v) legislative changes, if any, needed to implement findings from the Accelerated Disaster Response Initiative of the Administration; and

(vi) a description of how the Administration plans to integrate and coordinate the response to a major disaster with the technical assistance programs of the Administration; and

(B) the plans of the Administrator for implementing any recommendation made under subparagraph (A).

TITLE IV—ENERGY EMERGENCIES

SEC. 401. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) a significant number of small business concerns in the United States, nonfarm as well as agricultural producers, use heating oil, natural gas, propane, or kerosene to heat their facilities and for other purposes;

(2) a significant number of small business concerns in the United States sell, distribute, market, or otherwise engage in commerce directly related to heating oil, natural gas, propane, and kerosene; and

(3) significant increases in the price of heating oil, natural gas, propane, or kerosene—

(A) disproportionately harm small business concerns dependent on those fuels or that use, sell, or distribute those fuels in the ordinary course of their business, and can cause them substantial economic injury;

(B) can negatively affect the national economy and regional economies;

(C) have occurred in the winters of 1983 to 1984, 1988 to 1989, 1996 to 1997, 1999 to 2000, 2000 to 2001, and 2004 to 2005; and

(D) can be caused by a host of factors, including international conflicts, global or regional supply difficulties, weather conditions, insufficient inventories, refinery capacity, transportation, and competitive structures in the markets, causes that are often unforeseeable to, and beyond the control of, those who own and operate small business concerns.

SEC. 402. SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY EMERGENCY DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (11), as added by this Act, the following:

“(12) ENERGY EMERGENCIES.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

“(i) the term ‘base price index’ means the moving average of the closing unit price on the New York Mercantile Exchange for heating oil, natural gas, or propane for the 10 days, in each of the most recent 2 preceding years, which correspond to the trading days described in clause (ii);

“(ii) the term ‘current price index’ means the moving average of the closing unit price on the New York Mercantile Exchange, for the 10 most recent trading days, for contracts to purchase heating oil, natural gas, or propane during the subsequent calendar month, commonly known as the ‘front month’;

“(iii) the term ‘heating fuel’ means heating oil, natural gas, propane, or kerosene; and

“(iv) the term ‘significant increase’ means—

“(I) with respect to the price of heating oil, natural gas, or propane, any time the current price index exceeds the base price index by not less than 40 percent; and

“(II) with respect to the price of kerosene, any increase which the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, determines to be significant.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION.—The Administration may make such loans, either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis, to assist a small business concern that has suffered or that is likely to suffer substantial economic injury as the result of a significant increase in the price of heating fuel occurring on or after October 1, 2004.

“(C) INTEREST RATE.—Any loan or guarantee extended under this paragraph shall be made at the same interest rate as economic injury loans under paragraph (2).

“(D) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—No loan may be made under this paragraph, either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis, if the total amount outstanding and committed to the borrower under this subsection would exceed \$1,500,000, unless such borrower constitutes a major source of employment in its surrounding area, as determined by the Administrator, in which case the Administrator, in the discretion of the Administrator, may waive the \$1,500,000 limitation.

“(E) DECLARATIONS.—For purposes of assistance under this paragraph—

“(i) a declaration of a disaster area based on conditions specified in this paragraph shall be required, and shall be made by the President or the Administrator; or

“(ii) if no declaration has been made under clause (i), the Governor of a State in which a significant increase in the price of heating fuel has occurred may certify to the Administration that small business concerns have

suffered economic injury as a result of such increase and are in need of financial assistance which is not otherwise available on reasonable terms in that State, and upon receipt of such certification, the Administration may make such loans as would have been available under this paragraph if a disaster declaration had been issued.

“(F) USE OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, loans made under this paragraph may be used by a small business concern described in subparagraph (B) to convert from the use of heating fuel to a renewable or alternative energy source, including agriculture and urban waste, geothermal energy, cogeneration, solar energy, wind energy, or fuel cells.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO HEATING FUEL.—Section 3(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(k)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “, significant increase in the price of heating fuel” after “civil disorders”; and

(2) by inserting “other” before “economic”.

(c) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—The amendments made by this section shall apply during the 4-year period beginning on the date on which guidelines are published by the Administrator under section 404.

SEC. 403. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER EMERGENCY LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “operations have” and inserting “operations (i) have”; and

(B) by inserting before “; Provided,” the following: “, or (ii)(I) are owned or operated by such an applicant that is also a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)), and (II) have suffered or are likely to suffer substantial economic injury on or after October 1, 2004, as the result of a significant increase in energy costs or input costs from energy sources occurring on or after October 1, 2004, in connection with an energy emergency declared by the President or the Secretary”;

(2) in the third sentence, by inserting before the period at the end the following: “or by an energy emergency declared by the President or the Secretary”; and

(3) in the fourth sentence—

(A) by inserting “or energy emergency” after “natural disaster” each place that term appears; and

(B) by inserting “or declaration” after “emergency designation”.

(b) FUNDING.—Funds available on the date of enactment of this Act for emergency loans under subtitle C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.) shall be available to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a) to meet the needs resulting from energy emergencies.

(c) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—The amendments made by this section shall apply during the 4-year period beginning on the date on which guidelines are published by the Secretary of Agriculture under section 404.

SEC. 404. GUIDELINES AND RULEMAKING.

(a) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each issue such guidelines as the Administrator or the Secretary, as applicable, determines to be necessary to carry out this title and the amendments made by this title.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall promulgate regulations specifying the method for deter-

mining a significant increase in the price of kerosene under section 7(b)(12)(A)(iv)(II) of the Small Business Act, as added by this Act.

SEC. 405. REPORTS.

(a) SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.—Not later than 12 months after the date on which the Administrator issues guidelines under section 404, and annually thereafter until the date that is 12 months after the end of the effective period of section 7(b)(12) of the Small Business Act, as added by this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, a report on the effectiveness of the assistance made available under section 7(b)(12) of the Small Business Act, as added by this Act, including—

(1) the number of small business concerns that applied for a loan under such section and the number of those that received such loans;

(2) the dollar value of those loans;

(3) the States in which the small business concerns that received such loans are located;

(4) the type of heating fuel or energy that caused the significant increase in the cost for the participating small business concerns; and

(5) recommendations for ways to improve the assistance provided under such section 7(b)(12), if any.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Not later than 12 months after the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture issues guidelines under section 404, and annually thereafter until the date that is 12 months after the end of the effective period of the amendments made to section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a)) by this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, a report that—

(1) describes the effectiveness of the assistance made available under section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a)); and

(2) contains recommendations for ways to improve the assistance provided under such section 321(a), if any.

SA 2651. Mr. REID (for Mr. BOND) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2650 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. KERRY) to the bill S. 163, to improve the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 50, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 60, line 3.

SA 2652. Mr. REID (for Mr. COBURN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2650 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. KERRY) to the bill S. 163, to improve the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 24, line 2, strike “shall” and insert “may”.

On page 24, strike line 9, and all that follows through page 28, line 5, and insert the following:

“(B) REPORT.—In carrying out this subsection, if the number of full-time employees for either the Office of Disaster Assistance or the Disaster Cadre of the Administration is

below the level described in subparagraph (A) for that office, not later than 21 days after the date on which that staffing level decreased below the level described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, a report—

- “(i) detailing staffing levels on that date;
- “(ii) requesting, if practicable and determined appropriate by the Administrator, additional funds for additional employees; and
- “(iii) containing such additional information, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.”.

TITLE II—DISASTER LENDING

SEC. 201. CATASTROPHIC NATIONAL DISASTER DECLARATION.

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (10), as added by this Act, the following:

“(11) CATASTROPHIC NATIONAL DISASTERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may make a catastrophic national disaster declaration in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) PROMULGATION OF RULES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall promulgate regulations establishing a threshold for a catastrophic national disaster declaration.

“(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In promulgating the regulations required under clause (i), the Administrator shall establish a threshold that—

“(I) is similar in size and scope to the events relating to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and Hurricane Katrina of 2005;

“(II) requires that the President declares a major disaster before making a catastrophic national disaster declaration under this paragraph;

“(III) requires consideration of—

“(aa) the dollar amount per capita of damage to the State, its political subdivisions, or a region;

“(bb) the number of small business concerns damaged, physically or economically, as a direct result of the event;

“(cc) the number of individuals and households displaced from their predisaster residences by the event;

“(dd) the severity of the impact on employment rates in the State, its political subdivisions, or a region;

“(ee) the anticipated length and difficulty of the recovery process;

“(ff) whether the events leading to the relevant major disaster declaration are of an unusually large and calamitous nature that is orders of magnitude larger than for an average major disaster; and

“(gg) any other factor determined relevant by the Administrator.

“(C) AUTHORIZATION.—If the President makes a catastrophic national disaster declaration under this paragraph, the Administrator may make such loans under this paragraph (either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis) as the Administrator determines appropriate to small business concerns located anywhere in the United States that are economically adversely impacted as a result of that catastrophic national disaster.

“(D) LOAN TERMS.—A loan under this paragraph shall be made on the same terms as a loan under paragraph (2).”.

On page 28, strike lines 15 through 18 and insert the following:

“(A) the term ‘disaster area’ means any area for which the President declared a major disaster (as that term is defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) that subsequently results in the President making a catastrophic national disaster declaration under subsection (b)(11);

On page 34, lines 8 and 9, strike “a disaster declaration is made” and inserting “the President makes a catastrophic disaster declaration under paragraph (11) of section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), as added by this Act.”

On page 34, lines 20 and 21, strike “under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b))” and insert “under paragraph (11) of section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), as added by this Act”.

SA 2653. Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. REED)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2358, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins in commemoration of Native Americans and the important contributions made by Indian tribes and individual Native Americans to the development of the United States and the history of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Native American \$1 Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIVE AMERICAN \$1 COIN PROGRAM.

Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(r) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF CIRCULATING \$1 COINS HONORING NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY INDIAN TRIBES AND INDIVIDUAL NATIVE AMERICANS IN UNITED STATES HISTORY.—

“(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING IN 2008.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning January 1, 2008, notwithstanding subsection (d), in addition to the coins to be issued pursuant to subsection (n), and in accordance with this subsection, the Secretary shall mint and issue \$1 coins that—

“(i) have as the designs on the obverse the so-called ‘Sacagawea design’; and

“(ii) have a design on the reverse selected in accordance with paragraph (2)(A), subject to paragraph (3)(A).

“(B) DELAYED DATE.—If the date of the enactment of the Native American \$1 Coin Act is after August 25, 2007, subparagraph (A) shall be applied by substituting ‘2009’ for ‘2008’.

“(2) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—The \$1 coins issued in accordance with paragraph (1) shall meet the following design requirements:

“(A) COIN REVERSE.—The design on the reverse shall bear—

“(i) images celebrating the important contributions made by Indian tribes and individual Native Americans to the development of the United States and the history of the United States;

“(ii) the inscription ‘\$1’; and

“(iii) the inscription ‘United States of America’.

“(B) COIN OVERSE.—The design on the obverse shall—

“(i) be chosen by the Secretary, after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and review by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee; and

“(ii) contain the so-called ‘Sacagawea design’ and the inscription ‘Liberty’.

“(C) EDGE-INCUSED INSCRIPTIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The inscription of the year of minting and issuance of the coin and the inscriptions ‘E Pluribus Unum’ and ‘In God We Trust’ shall be edge-incused into the coin.

“(ii) PRESERVATION OF DISTINCTIVE EDGE.—

The edge-incusing of the inscriptions under clause (i) on coins issued under this subsection shall be done in a manner that preserves the distinctive edge of the coin so that the denomination of the coin is readily discernible, including by individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

“(D) REVERSE DESIGN SELECTION.—The designs selected for the reverse of the coins described under this subsection—

“(i) shall be chosen by the Secretary after consultation with the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, the Congressional Native American Caucus of the House of Representatives, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Congress of American Indians;

“(ii) shall be reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee;

“(iii) may depict individuals and events such as—

“(I) the creation of Cherokee written language;

“(II) the Iroquois Confederacy;

“(III) Wampanoag Chief Massasoit;

“(IV) the ‘Pueblo Revolt’;

“(V) Olympian Jim Thorpe;

“(VI) Ely S. Parker, a general on the staff of General Ulysses S. Grant and later head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

“(VII) code talkers who served the United States Armed Forces during World War I and World War II; and

“(iv) in the case of a design depicting the contribution of an individual Native American to the development of the United States and the history of the United States, shall not depict the individual in a size such that the coin could be considered to be a ‘2-headed’ coin.

“(3) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING 1 NATIVE AMERICAN EVENT DURING EACH YEAR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each design for the reverse of the \$1 coins issued during each year shall be emblematic of 1 important Native American or Native American contribution each year.

“(B) ISSUANCE PERIOD.—Each \$1 coin minted with a design on the reverse in accordance with this subsection for any year shall be issued during the 1-year period beginning on January 1 of that year and shall be available throughout the entire 1-year period.

“(C) ORDER OF ISSUANCE OF DESIGNS.—Each coin issued under this subsection commemorating Native Americans and their contributions—

“(i) shall be issued, to the maximum extent practicable, in the chronological order in which the Native Americans lived or the events occurred, until the termination of the coin program described in subsection (n); and

“(ii) thereafter shall be issued in any order determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, after consultation with the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, the Congressional Native American Caucus of the House of Representatives, and the National Congress of American Indians.

“(4) ISSUANCE OF NUMISMATIC COINS.—The Secretary may mint and issue such number of \$1 coins of each design selected under this subsection in uncirculated and proof qualities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(5) QUANTITY.—The number of \$1 coins minted and issued in a year with the Sacagawea-design on the obverse shall be not less than 20 percent of the total number of \$1 coins minted and issued in such year.”.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 5112(n)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through “Notwithstanding subsection (d)” and inserting the following:

“(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING IN 2007.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)”;

(2) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(3) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately.

SEC. 4. REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO CIRCULATION OF \$1 COIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to remove barriers to circulation, the Secretary of the Treasury shall carry out an aggressive, cost-effective, continuing campaign to encourage commercial enterprises to accept and dispense \$1 coins that have as designs on the obverse the so-called “Sacagawea design”.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress an annual report on the success of the efforts described in subsection (a).

SA 2654. Mr. COLEMAN (for Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3311, Official Title Not Available; as follows:

In section 1112(b)(1) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (as added by section 3), strike subparagraph (B) and insert the following:

“(B) use not to exceed \$5,000,000 of the funds made available for fiscal year 2007 for Federal Transit Administration Discretionary Programs, Bus and Bus Facilities (without any local matching funds requirement) for operating expenses of the Minnesota State department of transportation for actual and necessary costs of maintenance and operation, less the amount of fares earned, which are provided by the Metropolitan Council (of Minnesota) as a temporary substitute for highway traffic service following the collapse of the Interstate I-35W bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 1, 2007, until highway traffic service is restored on such bridge.

SA 2655. Mr. REID (for Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. LEAHY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 849, to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes; as follows:

The bill is amended as follows:

(a) NEWS-MEDIA STATUS.—At page 4, strike lines 4 through 15 and insert:

“The term “a representative of the news media” means any person or entity that gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience. The term “news” means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public. Examples of news-media entities are television or radio stations broadcasting to the public at large and publishers of periodicals (but only if such entities qualify as disseminators of “news”) who make their products available for purchase by or subscription by or free distribution to the general public. These examples are not all-inclusive. Moreover, as methods of news delivery evolve (for

example, the adoption of the electronic dissemination of newspapers through telecommunications services), such alternative media shall be considered to be news-media entities. A freelance journalist shall be regarded as working for a newsmedia entity if the journalist can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication through that entity, whether or not the journalist is actually employed by the entity. A publication contract would present a solid basis for such an expectation; the Government may also consider the past publication record of the requester in making such a determination.”.

(b) ATTORNEYS’ FEES.—At page 5, strike lines 1 through 7 and insert:

“(1) a judicial order, or an enforceable written agreement or consent decree; or

(II) a voluntary or unilateral change in position by the agency, provided that the complainant’s claim is not insubstantial.”.

(c) COMMENCEMENT OF 20-DAY PERIOD AND TOLLING.—At page 6, lines 1 through 7 and insert:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 552(a)(6)(A)(i) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “determination;” and inserting:

“determination. The 20-day period shall commence on the date on which the request is first received by the appropriate component of the agency, but in any event no later than ten days after the request is first received by any component of the agency that is designated in the agency’s FOIA regulations to receive FOIA requests. The 20-day period shall not be tolled by the agency except (I) that the agency may make one request to the requester for information and toll the 20-day period while it is awaiting such information that it has reasonably requested from the FOIA requester or (II) if necessary to clarify with the requester issues regarding fee assessment. In either case, the agency’s receipt of the requester’s response to the agency’s request for information or clarification ends the tolling period;”.

(d) COMPLIANCE WITH TIME LIMITS.—At page 6, strike line 11 and all that follows through page 7, line 4, and insert:

“(b) COMPLIANCE WITH TIME LIMITS—

(1)(A) Section 552(a)(4)(A) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(viii) An agency shall not assess search fees under this subparagraph if the agency fails to comply with any time limit under paragraph (6), provided that no unusual or exceptional circumstances (as those terms are defined for purposes of paragraphs (6)(B) and (C), respectively) apply to the processing of the request.”.

(B) Section 552(a)(6)(B)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting between the first and second sentences the following:

“To aid the requester, each agency shall make available its FOIA Public Liaison, who shall assist in the resolution of any disputes between the requester and the agency.”

(e) STATUS OF REQUESTS.—At page 7:

(1) strike lines 17 through 22 and insert:

“(A) establish a system to assign an individualized tracking number for each request received that will take longer than ten days to process and provide to each person making a request the tracking number assigned to the request; and”.

(2) at line 23, strike “(C)” and insert “(B)”.

(f) CLEAR STATEMENT FOR EXEMPTIONS.—At page 8, strike line 19 and all that follows through the end of the section and insert:

“(A) if enacted prior to the date of enactment of the OPEN Government Act of 2007, requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to

particular types of matters to be withheld; or

“(B) if enacted after the date of enactment of the OPEN Government Act of 2007, specifically cites to the Freedom of Information Act.”.

(g) PRIVATE RECORDS MANAGEMENT.—At page 13, lines 14 through 15, strike “a contract between the agency and the entity.” and insert “Government contract, for the purposes of records management.”.

(h) POLICY REVIEWS, AUDITS, AND CHIEF FOIA OFFICERS AND PUBLIC LIAISONS.—Strike section 11 and insert the following:

“SEC. 11. OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) There is established the Office of Government Information Services within the National Archives and Records Administration. The Office of Government Information Services shall review policies and procedures of administrative agencies under section 552, shall review compliance with section 552 by administrative agencies, and shall recommend policy changes to Congress and the President to improve the administration of section 552. The Office of Government Information Services shall offer mediation services to resolve disputes between persons making requests under section 552 and administrative agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation and, at the discretion of the Office, may issue advisory opinions if mediation has not resolved the dispute.

“(i) The Government Accountability Office shall conduct audits of administrative agencies on the implementation of section 552 and issue reports detailing the results of such audits.

“(j) Each agency shall—

“(1) Designate a Chief FOIA Officer who shall be a senior official of such agency (at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level).

GENERAL DUTIES.—The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency shall, subject to the authority of the head of the agency—

“(A) have agency-wide responsibility for efficient and appropriate compliance with the FOIA;

“(B) monitor FOIA implementation throughout the agency and keep the head of the agency, the chief legal officer of the agency, and the Attorney General appropriately informed of the agency’s performance in implementing the FOIA;

“(C) recommend to the head of the agency such adjustments to agency practices, policies, personnel, and funding as may be necessary to improve its implementation of the FOIA;

“(D) review and report to the Attorney General, through the head of the agency, at such times and in such formats as the Attorney General may direct, on the agency’s performance in implementing the FOIA; and

“(E) facilitate public understanding of the purposes of the FOIA’s statutory exemptions by including concise descriptions of the exemptions in both the agency’s FOIA handbook issued under section 552(g) of title 5, United States Code, and the agency’s annual FOIA report, and by providing an overview, where appropriate, of certain general categories of agency records to which those exemptions apply.”

“(2) Designate one or more FOIA Public Liaisons who shall be appointed by the Chief FOIA Officer.

GENERAL DUTIES.—FOIA Public Liaisons shall report to the agency Chief FOIA Officer and shall serve as supervisory officials to whom a FOIA requester can raise concerns about the service the FOIA requester has received from the FOIA Requester Center, following an initial response from the FOIA Requester Center staff. FOIA Public Liaisons

shall be responsible for assisting in reducing delays, increasing transparency and understanding of the status of requests, and assisting in the resolution of disputes.”

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.”.

(i) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION.—Strike section 12 of the bill.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests.

The hearing will be held on September 20, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on several bills, including: S. 1377, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, and for other purposes; S. 1433, to amend the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to provide competitive status to certain Federal employees in the State of Alaska; S. 1608 and H.R. 815, to provide for the conveyance of certain land in Clark County, Nevada, for use by the Nevada National Guard; S. 1740, to amend the Act of February 22, 1889, and the Act of July 2, 1862, to provide for the management of public land trust funds in the State of North Dakota; S. 1802, to adjust the boundaries of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in the State of Idaho; S. 1803, to authorize the exchange of certain land located in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes; S. 1939, to provide for the conveyance of certain land in the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico; and S. 1940, to reauthorize the Rio Puerco Watershed Management Program, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks or Rachel Pasternack.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, August 3, 2007, at 8 a.m. in executive session to receive informa-

tion relating to the treatment of detainees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

On Thursday, August 2, 2007, the Senate passed H.R. 976, as amended, as follows:

H.R. 976

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 976) entitled “An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY ACT; REFERENCES; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the “Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007”.

(b) *AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY ACT*.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Social Security Act.

(c) *REFERENCES TO MEDICAID; CHIP; SECRETARY*.—In this Act:

(1) *CHIP*.—The term “CHIP” means the State Children’s Health Insurance Program established under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.).

(2) *MEDICAID*.—The term “Medicaid” means the program for medical assistance established under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(3) *SECRETARY*.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(d) *TABLE OF CONTENTS*.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; amendments to Social Security Act; references; table of contents.

TITLE I—FINANCING OF CHIP

Sec. 101. Extension of CHIP.

Sec. 102. Allotments for the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Sec. 103. One-time appropriation.

Sec. 104. Improving funding for the territories under CHIP and Medicaid.

Sec. 105. Incentive bonuses for States.

Sec. 106. Phase-out of coverage for nonpregnant childless adults under CHIP; conditions for coverage of parents.

Sec. 107. State option to cover low-income pregnant women under CHIP through a State plan amendment.

Sec. 108. CHIP Contingency fund.

Sec. 109. Two-year availability of allotments; expenditures counted against oldest allotments.

Sec. 110. Limitation on matching rate for States that propose to cover children with effective family income that exceeds 300 percent of the poverty line.

Sec. 111. Option for qualifying States to receive the enhanced portion of the CHIP matching rate for Medicaid coverage of certain children.

TITLE II—OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT

Sec. 201. Grants for outreach and enrollment.

Sec. 202. Increased outreach and enrollment of Indians.

Sec. 203. Demonstration program to permit States to rely on findings by an Express Lane agency to determine components of a child’s eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP.

Sec. 204. Authorization of certain information disclosures to simplify health coverage determinations.

TITLE III—REDUCING BARRIERS TO ENROLLMENT

Sec. 301. Verification of declaration of citizenship or nationality for purposes of eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP.

Sec. 302. Reducing administrative barriers to enrollment.

TITLE IV—REDUCING BARRIERS TO PROVIDING PREMIUM ASSISTANCE

Subtitle A—Additional State Option for Providing Premium Assistance

Sec. 401. Additional State option for providing premium assistance.

Sec. 402. Outreach, education, and enrollment assistance.

Subtitle B—Coordinating Premium Assistance With Private Coverage

Sec. 411. Special enrollment period under group health plans in case of termination of Medicaid or CHIP coverage or eligibility for assistance in purchase of employment-based coverage; coordination of coverage.

TITLE V—STRENGTHENING QUALITY OF CARE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN

Sec. 501. Child health quality improvement activities for children enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP.

Sec. 502. Improved information regarding access to coverage under CHIP.

Sec. 503. Application of certain managed care quality safeguards to CHIP.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Technical correction regarding current State authority under Medicaid.

Sec. 602. Payment error rate measurement (“PERM”).

Sec. 603. Elimination of counting Medicaid child presumptive eligibility costs against title XXI allotment.

Sec. 604. Improving data collection.

Sec. 605. Deficit Reduction Act technical corrections.

Sec. 606. Elimination of confusing program references.

Sec. 607. Mental health parity in CHIP plans.

Sec. 608. Dental health grants.

Sec. 609. Application of prospective payment system for services provided by Federally-qualified health centers and rural health clinics.

Sec. 610. Support for injured servicemembers.

Sec. 611. Military family job protection.

Sec. 612. Sense of Senate regarding access to affordable and meaningful health insurance coverage.

Sec. 613. Demonstration projects relating to diabetes prevention.

Sec. 614. Outreach regarding health insurance options available to children.

TITLE VII—REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 701. Increase in excise tax rate on tobacco products.

Sec. 702. Administrative improvements.

Sec. 703. Time for payment of corporate estimated taxes.

TITLE VIII—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 801. Effective date.

TITLE I—FINANCING OF CHIP

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF CHIP.

Section 2104(a) (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs: